



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

YAMAMOTO et al.

Attn: Office of Publications

Serial No. 858,040

Batch No. C43

Filed: May 1, 1986

For: POLYMER, PRODUCTION AND USE THEREOF

#9
8/8/87

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.99

Honorable Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Applicants wish to bring to the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office the results of the European Search Report, obtained by Applicants October 12, 1987, from their British attorney in charge of the corresponding EPC application.

Attached is PTO form 1449, listing the references cited on the European Search Report. English equivalents of the French documents are included.

EP-A-0 107 591 discloses which are suitable for injection molding of absorbable surgical devices, which contain 70-85 mole % lactide and 15-30 mole % glycolide. On page 6, lines 30-35, this references discloses that crude reaction product of the polymerization of glycolide and lactide is contacted with ethyl ether to remove unreacted monomer. There is no disclosure of removal of water-soluble low molecular weight compounds by

extraction with water or water and water-soluble organic solvent in this reference.

U.S. Patent No. 3,912,692 discloses a process for polymerizing a glycolide composition by heating a mixture of substantially pure glycolide with small quantities of inositol and a polymerization catalyst. Example 1 sets forth a method in which crude polymerization product is extracted with acetone to remove unreacted glycolide monomer. There is no disclosure of removal of water-soluble low molecular weight compounds by extraction with water or water and water-soluble organic solvent in this reference.

EP-A-0 052 510 discloses microcapsule compositions of polypeptides encapsulated in polymers such as poly(lactide-co-glycolide) copolymers. No technique is disclosed in this reference for purifying the polymers or copolymers.

FR-A-2 126 270 and UK 1 351 409 disclose a sustained release pharmaceutical composition that may employ a microcapsule of a lactide/glycolide copolymer. Page 4, lines 90-106 of the UK patent disclose that the copolymer is treated by dissolving in an organic solvent and precipitating in a non-solvent. There is no disclosure of removal of water-soluble low molecular weight compounds by extraction with water or water and water-soluble organic solvent in this reference.

FR-A-2 551 072 and UK 2 145 422 disclose an ester of a polyol with a poly- or co-poly-lactic acid residue. Example 1 sets forth a method in which diglycolide, dilactide and glucose are polymerized to produce a polyol ester.

U.S. Patent No. 4,249,531 discloses a bioerodable drug release device that is made of a hydrophobic poly(carboxylic acid). There is no disclosure of a lactic acid/glycolic acid copolymer in this reference.

Respectfully submitted,



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Atty. Docket HAW-19550
Date: November 3, 1987

HAW:KEJ:kjc/6